Biblioteca. Oficina del Sub-Comisionado de Instrucción de Puerto Ricó.

Lord, E. W.

Cartas Circulares. Departamento de Instrucción de Puerto Rico.
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Cartas Circulares No. 101-218 expedidas por el Departamento de Instrucción desde el 8 de junio de 1904 al 30 de junio de 1905 compiladas por E.W. Lord, Comisionado de Instrucción Interino.

Carta Circular #133. Ausencia de los maestros. Deducción en el salario del maestro por ausencias de más de dos días. Recomendaciones qué podrá hacer el Superintendente de escuelas.
Carta Circular #147. Ausencia de los alumnos en días de fiestas religiosas. Reglamentación probable excusando éstas.
Carta Circular #165. Vacunar los alumnos. Requiere que antes de ser admitidos los niños y maestros se les requiera certificado de vacunación.
Carta Circular #209. Licencia de los maestros. Extendidas sólo por un año, no como anteriormente se hacía por dos o tres.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF PORTO RICO
Office of the Commissioner
San Juan

Circular Letter No. 133

October 20, 1904.

To the Superintendents.

Gentlemen:-

Your attention is herewith called to that part of Section II of the Rules and Regulations of the Department in relation to deductions for absences which reads:

> "When a teacher is absent from duty for any other reason, a corresponding deduction of salary will be made; except that in cases of unavoidable absence, and when specially recommended by the superintendent of schools under whom the teacher is employed, the Commissioner of Education may authorized payment for such a number of days as he may consider warranted by the circumstances of the case."

It is not the purpose of this rule to use greater rigor in the matter of granting leave with pay than the regulations of the preceding year. What is proposed is a larger latitude of discretion. Unavoidable absence may result from other causes than sickness or death, while sickness may be unavoidably longer than the period provided for in the rules of last year.

In cases of sickness not exceeding two consecutive days your recommendation in regard to granting pay (on the regular blank now in use) will be considered, as heretofore, evidence that you have looked into the matter and are satisfied as to the fact that the teacher was actually sick at the time. In all cases in which the sickness is for a period longer than two days, or in which the unavoidable absence was due to causes other than sickness, you are requested to write a special letter to the Department which, in

addition to your recommendation in regard to payment, shall contain a full statement of the cause of absence and the reasons why it should be deemed unavoidable.

It should be understood that the recommendations of superintendents will receive careful consideration in this office and that one matter of primary importance will be the record of the teacher during the past year. While there are many cases in which brief absences for sickness are unavoidable, the Department cannot regard with favor teacher who have been sick in several successive months to the exact extent permitted by the Rules and Regulations of last year. In such cases it must draw the inference that the teachers are not physically capable of carrying on their work and that the schools should not suffer by the employment of teachers whose physical condition is such as to interfere seriously with the regular performance of their school duties.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Roland P. Falkner
Commissioner of Education